

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A LAN switch is one component of a communications network system composed of a virtual LAN having network terminals such as personal computers connected with ports respectively. The LAN switch provides a host table for holding correspondence between each port and address information of the network terminal connected to each port and an authentication table for holding information for authenticating a user of each network terminal. If a request takes place of changing the correspondence about the source network terminal held in the host table when relaying the packets, the LAN switch prompts a user name and a password for the source network terminal, does user authentication on the basis of the information held in an authentication table, and enables rewrite of the host table and relay of the packets if the user is correct. These processes are executed for easily preventing false use of an address or tapping or false access by a malignant user as well as analyzing or recovering the erroneously set address.

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